OVERVIEW

On January 13th, 49 WMU students boarded the charter bus to attend the 2017 TAPPI Student Summit. For most, this was their first summit, making it even more memorable and advantageous. The students arrived in downtown Cincinnati Friday night, where they would reside in a hotel full of other paper science and technology students from schools across the United States and in Europe.

The theme of this year’s summit was “One goal, multiple paths”. Networking, a color school course, transferring from school to work, how to evaluate job offers, and how to polish your resume were the areas of focus for the guest speakers. The students also attended a keynote presentation given by Tony Curtis, CEO of Sofidel. This information greatly benefited the students as the lessons taught were directly applicable to opportunities in the forest products industry.

ENGINEERING COMPETITION

This year’s competition involved building a rollercoaster out of paper and popsicle sticks and seeing who could make a marble take the most time to complete their track. The goal was to get as close to 30 seconds as possible, with bonus points for adding loops and other features to the course. There was a student from WMU on all four winning teams this year!

INTERVIEWING

Interviews were held each day of the conference in conjunction with table talks from industry leaders, info sessions, a student panel, and breakout sessions where students could connect with employers in a casual setting. The interviews and breakout sessions were a great opportunity for students looking to confirm placement for a summer internship or co-op.

ETIQUETTE DINNER

TAPPI has sought ways to prepare students for anything we may encounter in our field. Many employers have adapted a new tactic during the hiring process—inviting students to an interview over lunch. To prepare students for this, TAPPI asked Cathi R. Fallon, founder, and director of The Etiquette Institute of Ohio, to teach students proper table manners which may be crucial to success during a lunch interview.

By: JustOne Crosby and Andrew McCabe

Ryan Binkowski and Richard Waite know how to network in style

Michaela Schnell with the winning engineering competition coaster!

Brennan Augst, JustOne Crosby, Andrew McCabe, and Ryan Binkowski learned proper dinner etiquette and had the chance to network with current industry professionals!
The eventful weekend concluded with tours at several locations around Cincinnati. Our group was quite large this year so we were split into three different groups. The five locations students toured were: Novolex, Caraustar, DuBois Chemical, SCA, and Graphic Packaging.

"The trip’s value for me, as a student who already has a co-op in place, centers around the valuable networking that occurred. From the time taken away from their families and the effort put into their demonstrations, it is clear that conveying their knowledge in an approachable manor is a top priority of the companies and employees in attendance. This trip not only connected me to industry professionals, but provided an avenue to connect and bond with fellow paper engineering students here at Western Michigan University. Being able to attend this trip is a privilege that I am grateful to have shared with so many in this department."
-Andrew McCabe
WMU Paper Engineering Sophomore